

## NBII Pollinators Project

**The Pollinators Project coordinates efforts to address the need for information and technology to support monitoring, management, and conservation of pollinators.**

### Introduction

Alarming reports of collapsing bee colonies and declining populations of other pollinator species have forced us to pay attention to the plight of pollinators and what their disappearance might mean to agricultural and natural ecosystems worldwide. Pollinators provide an essential ecological service to over 90 percent of the world's wild and cultivated flowering plants and an estimated one-third of the food consumed by humans. Yet our knowledge of pollinators and the threats they are facing is limited. Successful monitoring, management, and conservation of pollinators and their habitats depend on the availability and accessibility of pollinator data and information.

In 2007, the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Pollinators Project developed the Pollinators Web site <<http://pollinators.nbii.gov/>> in

partnership with the Ecological Society of America <[www.esa.org](http://www.esa.org)>. The Web site combines ecological and biological information on pollinator species including bees, bats, hummingbirds, butterflies, and moths; pollination and related issues; and provides increased exposure and access to other important pollinator information sources. This Web site is a first step towards the development of the NBII Pollinators Project and partnerships for pollinator management and conservation.

### Background

The NBII <[www.nbii.gov](http://www.nbii.gov)> is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. The NBII and its partners and collaborators work on new standards, tools, and technologies that make it easier to find, integrate, and apply biological resources information. The NBII — a Web-based system — employs the Internet and other digital technologies for communication and collaboration, education, and data and technology transfer.

One of several globally and ecologically significant thematic components of the NBII, the Pollinators Project coordinates efforts to address the need for information and technology to support monitoring, management, and conservation of pollinators and pollinator habitats. Successful development and exchange of pollinator information and technology products will benefit other important issues such as invasive species management and bird conservation as well as provide

opportunities for cooperation among NBII partners working on these and other functional and taxonomic groups.

The NBII links diverse, high-quality biological databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by NBII partners and other contributors in government agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and private industry.

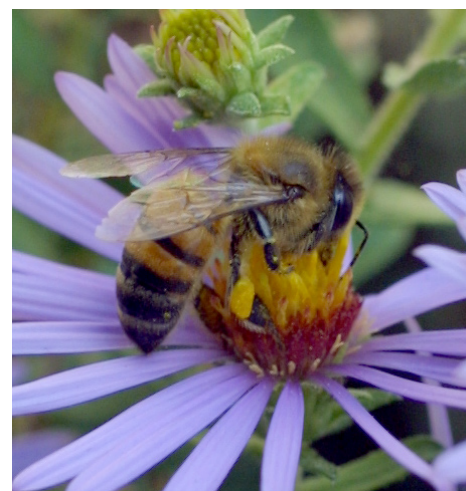


Photo credit: Elizabeth Sellers, NBII

*A bee gathers pollen into its pollen sacs, from an aster flower in Texas.*

### Serving Up Pollinators

The first product of the NBII Pollinators Project, phase I of the Pollinators Web site, covers a variety of topics including pollinator-related announcements and news; conservation; farming and gardening for pollinators; learning about pollination; pollinator species; references; teacher resources; and what you can do. Visitors to the site can also learn about pollination syndromes, recommended conservation practices, and find resources to help them identify and report sightings of pollinator species.

The Web site benefits pollinators by increasing public awareness and providing more exposure of online resources about pollinators. The target audience for the site currently includes educators, students, gardeners, and concerned citizens.

Phase II of the Web site will include incorporation of more detailed information on specific pollinator species, pollinator-related research and information products of the U.S. Geological Survey and other NBII nodes and projects, and about other national and international pollinator initiatives and organizations. In the future, the NBII Pollinators Project will address the needs of scientists, researchers, and taxonomists by supporting and promoting digitization, Web-enabling, exchange, and increased access to pollinator data through this Web site and other technologies and collaborative partnerships.

### **Partners and Contributors**

In addition to its partnership with

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the Ecological Society of America, the NBII Pollinators Project also participates in the tri-national North American Pollinator Protection Campaign <[www.nappc.org](http://www.nappc.org)> as the Co-Lead of the Databases and Collections Task Force; and in the Pollinators Thematic Network of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)

<<http://pollinators.iabin.net>>. As an unfunded initiative, the NBII Pollinators Project offers in-kind support to these and other efforts to manage and conserve pollinators and pollinator information. If you are interested in participating in the development of the NBII Pollinators Project, or in partnering on pollinator data digitization, standardization, and exchange, please contact the Project Manager, Elizabeth Sellers <[esellers@usgs.gov](mailto:esellers@usgs.gov)>.

### **For More Information**

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